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SOURCE

Newspapers as indicated.

SOME DATA ON USSR SCIENTIFIC
 EXPEDITIONS, AS OF JUNE 1951

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources]

Lithuanian SSR

A mixed expedition consisting of scientists from the Academy of Sciences Lithuanian SSR left Vil'nyus recently to study the natural resources in the area southwest of Vil'nyus. The scientists will study mineral and peat deposits and prepare soil maps. In addition, they will investigate the possibility of building GES on small rivers there.(1)

Azerbaijdzhan SSR

This year, the Academy of Sciences Azerbaijdzhan SSR has sent out 60 scientific expeditions, many of which are already working at their assigned places.

A group of scientists under the supervision of Musa Aliyev, president of the republic Academy of Sciences, is making a study of the slopes of the Great and Little Caucasus mountains and also of the Kura River area.

Agrochemists and soil scientists in many areas of the republic are studying the effect of various mineral and organic fertilizer application methods on the harvest of cotton, wheat, olives, and vegetables.

A botanical expedition is making a study of valuable species of trees and decorative plants.(2)

RSFSR

Expeditions of the West Siberia Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR have left for various parts of Siberia. More than 200 geologists, botanists, soil scientists, biologists, chemists, and other specialists are participating in 15 expeditions. They will explore rivers and reservoirs, collect medicinal plants, and experiment with methods of improving meadow and pasture lands.

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A mixed expedition, consisting of four sections, is heading for the Kulunda Steppe. It will explore the possibilities of developing irrigation farming there. In that connection, it will study the soil and the depth of ground water.

A large expedition is going to the Khakass area to plan shelter-belt routes and determine what species of trees are suitable for planting there.

Other expeditions have set out for Altay, the Sayan Mountains, northern Siberia, and the Barabinskaya Steppe.(2)

The Vladivostok Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences USSR is busily studying the still little-known natural resources of Primorskiy Kray and is working on plans for their rapid utilization.

Botanists of the affiliate are continuing their work of preparing geological-botanical maps of the kray. In cooperation with an expedition of the Botanical Institute of the Academy of Sciences USSR, they are surveying the natural resources of labaznik (dropwort or meadowsweet: *Spiraea filipendula* or *S. ulmaria*) and are examining areas suitable for growing this plant, which is an excellent source of tanning extracts. The Moscow botanists, under the supervision of Prof V. K. Vasil'yev, are exploring the possibilities of growing tea in the southern part of the kray.

A zoological expedition of the affiliate is trying to learn the most effective methods of combating pests harmful to trees.(4)

Turkmen SSR

The Aral-Caspian Expedition of the Geophysical Institute of the Academy of Sciences USSR, consisting of four groups, has arrived in Kazandzhik in Turkmenia. The expedition is headed by Puchkov, Candidate in Physicomathematical Sciences.

The task of the expedition will be to study areas subject to earthquakes along the route of the Main Turkmen Canal. The seismological group has set up seismographic stations in the foothills of the Zapadnyy (West) Kopet-Dag Mountains and in the Bolshoy (Great) and Malyy (Little) Balkhan mountains to record and report earthquakes. Highly sensitive seismographical instruments made in the USSR have been installed at the stations.(5)

A geobotanical expedition of Leningrad State University imeni A. A. Zhdanov has departed for the route of the Main Turkmen Canal. The expedition is under the leadership of I. Biyumental'. Its purpose is to study the vegetative cover in the canal zone.

A scientific expedition of the Leningrad Agrophysical Institute of the All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V. I. Lenin has also left for the canal zone. This expedition is led by N. Zakharov, Candidate in Agricultural Sciences. It will study soil structure and experiment with the use of bitumen emulsion in fixing shifting sands, a method developed by the institute. It will also experiment with methods of preventing water losses in irrigation canals.

(5)

SOURCES

1. Vil'nyus, Sovetskaya Litva, 12 Jun 51
2. Moscow, Izvestiya, 13 Jun 51
3. Moscow, Pravda, 3 Jun 51
4. Ibid., 16 Jun 51
5. Ashkhabad, Turkmenskaya Iskra, 19 Jun 51

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